

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for fastening a protective membrane for dental use to a jaw bone, comprising, first, the fitting into the bone of a micronail having a head with at least one means of retention and, then, the fastening of the membrane to said means of retention on the head of the micronail.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~a~~ A micronail for fastening a protective membrane to a jaw bone, comprising a shank and a head ~~characterised~~ characterized by the fact that the head (12) has means of retention for fastening a membrane, directly or with the aid of a retention element, after the micronail has been fitted into the jaw bone involved.

3. (Original) The micronail according to claim 2, wherein the means of retention consist of a part of the head of the micronail onto which to engage the membrane, and of a retention element designed to circle or cover the head by superimposing on the membrane.

4. (Original) The micronail according to claim 2, wherein the means of retention comprise an annular groove at the base of the head and a portion of the top of the head, the membrane being withheld between said groove and said portion of the top of the head by means of a retention element circling or enclosing the head.

5. (Original) The micronail according to claim 2, wherein the head has a means of

retention consisting of a tang that can be folded, after perforating and crossing the membrane, and secured by means of a retention element enclosing the membrane and the head.

6. (Original) The micronail according to any of the claims from 2, wherein the retention element consists of a ring or cap fitted to the head of the micronail.

7. (Original) The micronail according to claim 2, wherein the head has a means of retention for the membrane in the shape of a press stud.

8. (Original) The micronail according to claim 2, wherein the head has, at the top, a perforating portion (16) and, at the base, an annular groove (15) and wherein said perforating portion, after the micronail has been fitted into the bone, acts as a means for perforating and guiding the membrane towards the annular groove at the base of the head, and said groove is intended to receive and withhold part of the membrane around the hole deriving from said perforation.

9. (Original) The micronail according to claim 8, wherein said perforating portion is separable from the head after the membrane has been secured.

10. (Original) The micronail according to claim 8, wherein, with the head (12) a retention ring (21) is associated for retaining the membrane level with said annular groove, said

ring being fitted after or during membrane perforation.

11. (Currently Amended) The micronail according to ~~claims~~ claim 8-10, wherein between the shank and the head a supporting flange (14) is fitted and the annular groove (15) is formed between said flange and the head.

12. (Currently Amended) The micronail according to ~~claims~~ claim 8-11, wherein the perforating portion (16) is at least partially tapered so it is pointed and joins the head through a weakened breakage part.

13. (New) The micronail according to claim 9, wherein between the shank and the head a supporting flange (14) is fitted and the annular groove (15) is formed between said flange and the head.

14. (New) The micronail according to claim 10, wherein between the shank and the head a supporting flange (14) is fitted and the annular groove (15) is formed between said flange and the head.

15. (New) The micronail according to claim 9, wherein the perforating portion (16) is at least partially tapered so it is pointed and joins the head through a weakened breakage part.

16. (New) The micronail according to claim 10, wherein the perforating portion (16) is at least partially tapered so it is pointed and joins the head through a weakened breakage part.

17. (New) The micronail according to claim 11, wherein the perforating portion (16) is at least partially tapered so it is pointed and joins the head through a weakened breakage part.